



Repairs and space needs led the congregation to construct a new facility in the rapidly growing community. The cornerstone was laid on February 22, 1959. The "burning of the mortgage" was celebrated in December 1965.

In the late '60s, 70's, 80's and early '90s, baby boomer families ignited the church with activities and events. Youth activities were exceptionally strong. Music floated from the choir, hand bells and children's choir.

Don Carver moved his large family into the new parsonage - did he know then that Phil would enter the ministry, as well?

The 150th Church Anniversary was a lively event. It even featured a historical portrayal of Methodist Circuit Riders by Kent Kennedy. (1993)

The fellowship hall and offices, added in 1995 during Clare DeBoef's tenure.

Intervening years have offered new opportunities, changes and challenges to church and community. We have enjoyed the fellowship and ministry of a remarkable faith.

Let us forge forward, building a remarkable future upon our strong past.





Program

EMCEE, Bert Watson

- ◆ Opening by Praise Band *As We Gather*
- ◆ Welcome
- ◆ Introduction of Anniversary Committee
- ◆ Recognition of 50 year members
- ◆ Message from Rev. Kiboko Kiboko,
 Superintendent, East Central District,
- ◆ Words by Pastor Clare DeBoef
- ◆ Praise Band (alumni are encouraged to join
 the band up front to sing along)
 Shine, Jesus, Shine
 Great is the Lord
- ◆ Message by Phil Carver
- ◆ Reading of Letters from former pastors &
 members unable to attend
- ◆ Memories from attendees
- ◆ Final Remarks by Bill Homrighausen
- ◆ Closing *Bind Us Together*

From 20th into the 21st Century... we continue

Rev. Orrin Potter was appointed in 1976. In 1978, the congregation celebrated its 135th anniversary. An Allen Digital computer organ was installed in 1977. The outside lighting of the building was enhanced by installation of amber arc lights in 1981 and a dual burner furnace was installed the summer of 1982. Sunday School was very active during this period. On Sunday, during the summer, traveling services were held at different members homes and on the church lawn, until air conditioning was added to the church.

In 1983, the 140th year of its existence, Church membership was 520. Rev. Fred Pierce came in 1983. Rev Elmer Brunck followed. Both an adult and children's hand bell choir existed and they traveled to regional churches to perform. Linda Demmon was very active with the hand bell program.

Rev. Clare DeBoef was appointed in 1993. New offices and a larger fellowship hall were added to the building in 1995.

Rev. John Caldwell was appointed in 1999. An emphasis on youth was begun that year through a 3 year conference grant. A middle school program began June 1999 - June 2000. The High School youth program expanded under the leadership of volunteers.

Rev. James Kledis was appointed in 2005. During his tenure, the church added multi-media to the worship services.

Rev. Chuck Kelsey was appointed in 2007. During this time, the church became a senior meal site that continues today. A new sound system and screen were added to the sanctuary.

History continued...

Dr. Don Batz was appointed in 2013 as an interim pastor. During his tenure, the Summer Lunch Box program was started and has expanded to include other churches in the area.

Rev. Tom Boomershine was appointed in 2014. Several new initiatives, activities and partnerships were established, including Family Promise, Little Libraries, Peer Recovery, Summer night bonfires, Welcome to De Witt, sand volleyball, WOW welcome and single board to name a few.

The DeWitt United Methodist Church has been blessed. We continue to seek ways to provide responsive support to our participants and community - in a changing world. And, we remain committed to inspire, equip, and connect communities of faith to cultivate world-changing disciples of Jesus.

*Thank
you*

Our 175th Anniversary Committee has done an outstanding job of planning and coordinating this weekend's events. They also have plans to archive our historical materials for easy future reference. The committee included:

- Wes Demmon • Karen Fatchett • Kay Fleagle
- Judi Henricksen • Steve Nantz • John Ivens
- Pam Kennedy • Joyce Knight • Gail Stevens
- Bill Homrighausen • Dennis Mumm • Bert Watson

DUMC Living Members of 50 Plus Years and More

The following people joined the DUMC prior to (or in) 1968. For 50 years, or more, they have been members of our church. We thank them for their dedication!

- Barnes, Jerry
- Barnes, Wanda
- Birney, Dave
- Besst, Ronald
- Blake, Shirley
- Bowman, Bob
- Bowman, Eleanor
- Fatchett, Bill
- Fatchett, Karen
- Fleagle, Kay
- Fleagle, Vern
- Goodale, William
- Hanesworth, Ruth
- Harrington, JoAnn
- Harrington, Charles
- Homrighausen, Bill
- Johnson, Donna
- Johnson, Lowell
- Kaufman, Daniel
- Knight, Joyce
- Mumm, Dennis
- Mumm, LaRaine
- Nantz, Jeannette
- Nantz, Steve
- Nelson, Clara
- Parrot, Phyllis
- Sherer, Betty
- Soenksen, Helen
- Stewart, Lila
- VanDierendonck, Virgene
- Vetter, Terry
- Vickroy, Donna (Farber)
- Witt, Alfred
- Witt, Wilma